171 We may say of the children of that village on the isle of
865 Bananal, of Tampiitaua, and of many other Brazilian Indian communities, what Fernão Cardim (175) wrote with reference to the Tupinambá: "...the boys are cheerful and given to frolic and play with much gentleness and friendship, for among them no evil words are heard, no [127:236] indecencies, nor do they call their fathers and mothers names, and rarely do they disagree as they play, or quarrel about anything, hit each other, or do battle..." Modern authors also speak of the pleasant children they found among South American Indians (cf., for example, Koch-Grünberg 2, III, 147). Small children of both sexes, up to
192 about five years of age, are called antaĩ in Tapirapé. In
561 Stradelli's Nheengatú vocabulary (656), we find the following
858 entry: "Taína, 'child.' Name applied to both sexes during the
171 first years of life, until they begin to walk and talk, are given a name, and begin to specialize in their respective tasks, at which point the boy becomes curumi and girl cunhantaĩ." Aside from these terms, the Tapirapé use ampyki for the small boy and pityngĩ for the little girl. Yves d'Evreux (86), dealing with the age "levels" among the Tupinambá of Maranhão, writes as follows: "The first level, assumed to be common to males and females as they come out of their mother's womb, is called Peĩtan..." [translated from French]. In Montoya we read (2, 384): "A girl, or a boy up to age three, Mitang" [translated from Spanish].

From about six to around 12, that is, until the girl's first menstruation and the beginning of the boy's puberty, the Tapirapé call the former kuaantaĩ and the latter ekonomĩ. Montoya (2, I, 383 and 377) gives Cuña taĩ for a "girl up to 10 years" and Cunumĩ for a "youth."